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Senate

The Senate met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the President pro tempore (Mr. GRASSLEY).

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Barry C. Black, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

Eternal God, the ruler of Heaven, You alone are unutterable. Teach our lawmakers to obey You, to embrace the truth, to treat others fairly, and to avoid speaking harshly.

Lord, give them such respect for one another that they will assume the best motives for the actions of their colleagues. Help our Senators to remember that You are the judge of the universe who sees everything, whether good or bad.

Lord, You can even see the motivations of our hearts. Inspire us all to permit our thoughts, words, and actions to be acceptable to You.

And, Lord, we respect the conclusions of the electoral college and ask You to bless President-Elect Joseph Biden and Vice President-Elect KAMALA HARRIS.

We pray in Your great Name. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The President pro tempore led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mrs. HYDE-SMITH). The Senator from Iowa.

Mr. GRASSLEY. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent for 1 minute in morning business, please.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

U.S. SERVICEMEMBERS

Mr. GRASSLEY. Madam President, we are probably all guilty of not re-

membering the sacrifices of our men and women in uniform, but particularly during this time of year, it is especially difficult for them to be away from friends and family.

Right now, there are almost 1,500 Iowans deployed overseas with the Iowa National Guard, just as one example of a group we should be thinking about. And I think about this group because that 1,500 includes 1 member of my own staff.

We rely on our brave men and women in uniform to protect our way of life, our democracy, and the liberties we cherish. The sacrifices they make are not taken for granted and won't be forgotten by future generations. All of our Nation's servicemembers and their families will be in my prayers and, I hope, the prayers of all of my colleagues during this holiday season.

I yield the floor.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader is recognized.

TRUMP ADMINISTRATION

Mr. MCCONNELL. Madam President, over the last 4 years, our country has benefited from a Presidential term filled with major accomplishments. President Donald Trump has repeatedly surprised the skeptics, confounded his critics, and delivered significant policy victories that have strengthened our country.

Case in point, back in May, when the President set the goal of finding a pandemic-ending vaccine by the end of this year, his timeline was literally dismissed by people who assumed they knew better.

Here is one quote: "Trump promises coronavirus vaccine by the end of year," scoffed one headline, "but his own experts temper expectations."

"Fact check" complained another headline, "Coronavirus vaccine could

come this year, Trump says. Experts say he needs a 'miracle' to be right."

Well, with the genius of science, support from Congress, and the bold leadership of the Trump administration, that medical miracle arrived right on schedule. Americans on the frontlines are receiving vaccinations as we speak.

This episode offers a kind of microcosm of the last 4 years. On so many subjects—from economic prosperity to foreign policy, to protecting American families—the skeptics doubted him. The critics derided him. But President Trump has delivered.

When President Trump ran for office, he promised to help open a new chapter for working families. After 8 years of failed policies that concentrated wealth and optimism among the lucky few, prosperity was going to flow to all kinds of workers in all kinds of communities, he said. And that is exactly what happened.

Before this pandemic spread from China and the world had to slam on the brakes, the American people had the best job market in living memory. With help from the policies of President Trump and Republicans in Congress, American workers dynamited the stagnation that experts had said was "the new normal." Unemployment hit a 50-year low. Capital markets hit record highs.

And this time, all kinds of Americans got to share in the gains. We saw earnings grow faster for workers than for managers, faster for the bottom 25 than for the top 25. This success was fueled in part by the policy leadership of President Trump.

This administration pursued bold regulatory changes. Once-in-a-generation tax reform had eluded prior leaders. This President signed it into law in his first year.

And together we repealed the worst part of ObamaCare. The unfair individual mandate was zeroed out.

President Trump also took historic steps to strengthen the future of our

● This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.



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